

BERWICK.

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I send copies of Inscriptions in Berwick Churchyard, with such information as to the families as I can afford. That on the Rev. George Hall, 1668, has been printed in Vol. VI. of the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, p. 239. This extraordinary inscription is now preserved from the weather, as I have built a Vestry, of which it now forms part of the pavement.

INSCRIPTIONS ON TOMBSTONES IN BERWICK CHURCHYARD,
1860.

“Elisabeth, ye wife of Iohn Elphick,¹ of Alfriston. Bury . . . Ivne . . 1672.”

“In memory of George Elphick, of Alfriston, who died 12th January, 1742, aged 64 years.”

“Here lieth ye body of Ann, wife of George Elphick, of Alfriston, eldest daughter of Edmund Calverly, Gent., late of Hellingly, in this county, who departed this life ye 15 day of June, 1706, in ye 27 year of her age.”

“Also of Edmund, son of Geor . . . Elphick, . . . Ann, his wife, aged 10 Wicks.”

“In memory of Ann, second wife of George Elphick, who died 14th Sepr. 1730, aged 46 years.”

“In memory of Mr. William Lay,² late of this Parish, who departed this life the 7th day of August, 1766, in the 35th year of his age. Much lamented by all his acquaintance.”

“In memory of Samuel Stace,³ Senior, late of this Parish, who wass Buried the 28th of October, 1740, aged 70 od yrs.”

¹ The family of Elphick of Alfriston, seems to have been of considerable importance. About the middle of the last century they built a commodious house, opposite the Cross at Alfriston, which has lately been purchased by Mr. Taylor, and converted into a general shop. The last representative of the family (I have been told) is a bricklayer's labourer, who emigrated to Australia a few years since. Mr. Lower (*Suss. Arch. Coll.*, Vol. VII., p. 128) seems to connect them with the family at Seaford and Allerton, and with the numerous branches of Elphicks, which do exist, or have existed, in various parishes. I find that there were persons of this name living in Berwick from 1666 to 1710. In 1685, a Nathaniel Elphick was one of the principal farmers, being rated at £99. out of a total of £483.

² William Lay was only in the parish about two years. A few years since, the tomb-stone was painted, and the letters

fresh marked out, at the expense of his grand-daughters, Librarians, residing at East-Bourne.

³ This Samuel Stace was the first of the family who settled in Berwick, the precise date being 1711. He could not write his name. He came as a tenant of the Fuller family, the farm remaining in the Stace family for a period of one hundred and forty years, when William Stace, the fourth in descent (and the son of William Stace) emigrated to America, where he died on January 1st, 1858. The family so multiplied, that twenty years since, there were seven families residing in the parish, of this name, and it is now to be met with in many parishes. There probably was some connection between the Staces of Wartling, and the Staces of this parish, as in each parish I find the peculiar Christian name of Sihon, a Sihon Stace being a rate payer at Wartling in 1707, and a Sihon Stace having died at Berwick

“In memory of Samuel Stace, of this Parish, yeoman, who departed this Life the 3rd of February, 1777, aged 77 years.”

“In memory of Martha,¹ the wife of Samuel Stace, of this Parish, who departed this life the 25th of December, 1768, aged 68 years.”

“In memory of George Stace, who departed this life, May the 26th, 1785, aged 43 years.”

“Also of Betty, his wife, who departed this life December 22nd, 1799, aged 66 years.”

“Sacred to the memory of William Stace, late of this Parish, who died 23rd of May, 1829, aged 62 years.”

“Also of Elizabeth, his wife,² who died 17th of Sept. 1829, aged 51 years.”

“In memory of Thos. Pilchard,³ late of Cro . . . , who departed this life 3 January, 1794, aged 72 years.”

“To the memory of Lucy Pilchard, wife of Thomas Pilchard, who died March, 1813, aged 87 years.”

“In memory of George Ranger,⁴ who died Octo. . . . , 1726, aged 60 years.”

“Also of Eliz. his wife, who died Decem. . . . , 1726, aged 52.”

“To the memory of Mary, wife of John Ranger, who died 13th Sept. 1774, aged 73 years.” Remembering [my] affliction [and my misery, *Lam.* iii., 19].

“In memory of John Ranger, late Clark of this Parish, who died December 6, 1783, aged 73 years.”

“Thomas Goldsmith,⁵ Ob. May 17th, 1798, aged 37 years.”

in 1849, at the age of 77, leaving a grandson of the same name, who has emigrated to New Zealand.

¹ This Martha Stace was of the old family of Shoosmith of Laughton, that family being still tenants of the farm, which they have held for the last three hundred years.

² Elizabeth Stace was a Fuller of Mayes Farm in Selmeston.

³ The Pilchards left no family. Mrs. Pilchard was housekeeper to Rev. W. Hawes, who married in 1783, and died the following year, leaving his old housekeeper in comfortable circumstances for life.

⁴ The family of Ranger was long connected with Berwick. In 1627 I find the name of Thomas Ranger residing in the parish; and from that time the name is continually met with till the death of the old clerk in 1783. At different times I have been applied to by persons of this name, from Ripe and from Falmer, seeking information about the family, saying, that their Berwick property was sold to Lord Gage under condition to revert to the family after three generations.

⁵ Thomas Goldsmith was the tenant of Berwick Court Farm. The family left the parish in 1805, having come to Berwick in 1779.